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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04
SIL-01 OMB-01 DLOS-09 OES-06 INT-05 CG-00 DOTE-00
L-03 H-01 PA-01 PRS-01 /075 W
----------071753Z 105240 /43
O R 071642Z APR 77
FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3500
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USNATO BRUSSELS 4731
USNMR SHAPE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EEC, EFIS, PLOS, UR, GE, PL, PO, SP, SW, FI, FO
SUBJECT: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL, APRIL 5, 1977:
EXTERNAL FISHING REGIME

REF: EC BRUSSELS 3325

1. SUMMARY: DURING THEIR APRIL 5 COUNCIL SESSION, THE
EC FOREIGN MINISTERS APPROVED EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY ARRANGE-
MENTS FOR THIRD COUNTRY FISHING IN EC WATERS; AGREED TO A
NEW EC OVERTURE TOWARD ICELAND ON FISHING NEGOTIATIONS;
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AND REVIEWED THE STATUS OF OTHER THIRD COUNTRY FISHING
NEGOTIATIONS. DISCUSSIONS ON THE IRISH UNILATERAL CONSER-
VATION MEASURES REPORTED SEPTEL (NOTAL). END SUMMARY

2. TEMPORARY FISHING ARRANGEMENTS
PENDING CONCLUSION OF INDIVIDUAL NEGOTIATIONS ON FISHERY
AGREEMENTS, THE COUNCIL AGREED TO EXTENTION, FOR VARYING

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PERIODS OF TIME, OF TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENTS (INCLUDING LICENSING) GOVERNING THIRD COUNTRY FISHING IN EC WATERS. ACCORDING TO A UK SOURCE, A PACKAGE FORMULA WAS WORKED OUT LAST WEEK IN COREPER, SUBJECT TO A COMMISSION OBJECTION ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE LICENSING SYSTEM. AT THE COUNCIL MEETING, HOWEVER, GUNDELACH, HAVING MADE HIS POINT THAT THE COMMISSION, RATHER THAN THE COUNCIL PRESIDENCY, SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ISSUING LICENSES EVEN THOUGH THE PRESIDENCY MAY ADMINSITER THE LICENSING SYSTEM FOR THE COMMISSION ON AN INTERIM BASIS, REMOVED HIS OBJECTION, ALLOWING APPROVAL OF THE PACKAGE WITHOUT DEBATE.

3. QUOTAS PREVIOUSLY GRANTED TO POLAND, THE DGR, AND THE USSR AND THE VALIDITY OF THE FISHING LICENSES GRANTED TO THE VESSELS OF THOSE COUNTRIES WERE EXTENDED THROUGH MAY 31, 1977. PREVIOUS QUOTAS FOR SPAIN, FINLAND, AND PORTUGAL WERE EXTENDED THROUGH JUNE 30 (THOUGH FOR FINLAND, WHICH HAS NOT RECEIVED A FISH ALLOCATION, THIS IS A SIMPLE FORMALITY). SPAIN IS TO RECEIVE 124 FISHING LICENSES AND PORTUGAL ONE LICENSE (FOR ICNAF ZONE 1). OF THOSE STATES NOT SUBJECT TO LICENSING, NORWAY AND SWEDEN HAVE BEEN EXTENDED THROUGH JUNE 30 AND THE FAEROE ISLANDS, WHICH IS CONTEMPLATING UNILATERAL CONSERVATION MEASURES, ON THROUGH MAY 31 (TO BE REVIEWED AT THE END OF APRIL). THE COUNCIL ALSO GRANTED A SPECIAL 5000 TON BLUE WHITING QUOTA TO SWEDEN DURING APRIL 1977, ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS QUOTA IS ON A ONE-TIME BASIS FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES. (SWEDEN IS ALSO SEEKING SUCH QUOTAS IN THE NORWEGIAN AND FAEROESE ZONES.)

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4. NEGOTIATIONS WITH ICELAND
THE COUNCIL AGREED TO A PROPOSAL BY GUNDELACH THAT A DELEGATION OF COMMISSION AND COUNCIL PRESIDENCY REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD GO TO ICELAND, AT A TIME TO BE ARRANGED, TO RAISE THE WHOLE QUESTION OF ICELANDIC FISHING ARRANGEMENTS WITH EC MEMBER STATES IN THE WIDEST CONTEXT OF EC/ICELAND RELATIONS. ACCORDING TO COUNCIL AND PERMDEL SOURCES, GUNDELACH STRESSED TO THE MINISTERS THE NEED TO MAKE CLEAR TO THE ICELANDERS THE UNACCEPTABILITY OF THE GOI'S TACTICS OF DELAY ON RESUMPTION OF FISHING TALKS BY HIGHLIGHTING THE FULL RANGE OF POTENTIAL POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES. COUNCIL AND PERMDEL SOURCES INDICATE THAT GUNDELACH HAS IN MIND THE POSSIBILITY OF LINKING COMMUNITY TRADE CONCESSIONS UNDER THE 1973 EC/ICELAND TRADE AGREEMENT WITH MOVEMENT IN THE FISHERY SECTOR. GUNDELACH LATER DENIED TO REPORTERS THAT THE EC WAS THREATENING ICELAND BUT ADDED THAT THE ICELANDERS "MUST SEE THE WIDER SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SITUATION."

5. UK MINISTER OF STATE FRANK JUDD STRESSED TO REPORTERS

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THAT THERE WERE MORE THAN BRITISH INTERESTS AT STAKE AND
THAT WHAT THE UK FACES TODAY, OTHERS (I.E. BELGIUM AND THE
FRG) WILL FACE AS SOON AS THEIR BILATERAL AGREEMENTS WITH
ICELAND RUN OUT. JUDD UNDERLINED THAT ANY UK MINISTER
TAKING PART IN SUCH A DELEGATION WOULD BE REPRESENTING THE
THE EC COUNCIL AND NOT THE UK ALONE.

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6. NEGOTIATIONS WITH NORWAY
GUNDLACH REPORTEDON THE MOST RECENT NEGOTIATING ROUND,
CONCLUDED APRIL 4, WITH NORWAY. THE DRAFT AGREMENT IS
SETTLED ON ALL BUT TWO POINTS: EC INSISTENCE ON AN ARBITRAA
TION CLAUSE (WHICH THE NORWEGIANS SEEM WILLING TO ACCEPT)
AND NORWEGIAN FISHING OFF THE COAST OF SCOTLAND. ACCORDING
TO A UK SOURCE, THE BRITISH HAVE ALSO INDICATED THEY WILL
BE UNABLE TO APPROVE AN AGREEMENT BEFORE BEING INFORMED OF
THEIR SHARE OF THE EC ALLOTMENT IN NORWEGIAN WATERS (WHERE
THE UK CURRENTLY TAKES 150,000 TONS PER ANNUM OF DEMERSAL

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FISH). PERMDEL SOURCES ALSO INDICATE THAT, SUBSEQUENT
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TO APPROVAL OF THE FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT, DISCUSSIONS WILL
SHIFT TO NORWAY'S DESIRE TO PHASE DOWN EC CATCHES IN THE
BARENTS SEA NORTH OF THE 62ND PARALLEL.

7 OTHER NEGOTIATIONS
ACCORDING TO A UK SOURCE, GUNDELACH ALSO REPORTED THAT,
ALTHOUGH NO DEAL WAS YET TIED UP, PRGORESS IN TALKS WITH
CANADA HAD BEEN CONSIDERABLE AND, SO FAR, SATISFACTORY.
HE ANNOUNCED THAT A HIGH-LEVEL EC DELEGATION WOULD LEAVE
SOON FOR DAKER TO PURSUE EARLIER EFFORTS TO NEGOTIATE A
FRAMEWORK FISHERY AGREEMENT WITH SENEGAL. THE COUNCIL ALSO DIS-
CUSSED AN ITALIAN COMPLAINT ABOUT EXCLUSION FROM US WATERS
(WHICH WE UNDERSTAND WAS DIRECTED LARGELY AT THE
COMMISSION).

8. FOR NMFS, DEPT. OF COMMERCE: INFORMATION IN
PARAS 1, 3-5 ABOVE CAN BE RELEASED WITHOUT ATTRIBUTION
EXCEPT FOR THE SECOND AND THIRD SENTENCES OF PARA 4. HINTON

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